

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
DALLAS DIVISION

MONA FIELDS,

Plaintiff,

v.

ONEIL DATA SYSTEMS INC,

Defendant.

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Civil Action No. 3:21-CV-1254-D

SCHEDULING ORDER

Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b) and 26(f), the court's Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan (Misc. Order No. 46), and the local civil rules now in effect, and after having considered any proposals submitted by the parties, the court enters this scheduling order. If a date specified in this order falls on a Saturday, Sunday, legal holiday, or date on which the clerk's office is closed by direction of the court or is otherwise inaccessible, *see* Rule 6(a)(3), the deadline is the next day that is not one of the aforementioned days.

I. ELECTRONIC FILING OPTIONAL/"JUDGE'S COPY" NOT REQUIRED

Pursuant to N.D. Tex. Civ. R. 5.1(e), the court grants the parties the option of filing pleadings, motions, or other papers on paper. Filing by electronic means is permitted, not required.

The parties are excused from submitting the "judge's copy" of a pleading, motion, or other paper required by N.D. Tex. Civ. R. 5.1(b). The court will specifically request a judge's copy if one is needed.

II. PRETRIAL SCHEDULE

The parties must comply with each of the following deadlines unless a deadline is modified by court order upon a showing of good cause, as required by Rule 16(b).

A. Joinder of Parties

A party must file a motion for leave to join other parties no later than December 17, 2021.

B. Expert Witnesses

A party with the burden of proof on a claim or defense must designate expert witnesses and otherwise comply with Rule 26(a)(2) no later than May 2, 2022.

C. Rebuttal Expert Witnesses

A party who intends to offer expert evidence “intended solely to contradict or rebut evidence on the same subject matter identified by another party under Rule 26(a)(2)(B)” must designate expert witnesses and otherwise comply with Rule 26(a)(2) no later than June 1, 2022.

D. Amendment of Pleadings

A party must file a motion for leave to amend pleadings to assert new claims no later than December 17, 2021. A party must file a motion for leave to amend pleadings to assert new affirmative defenses no later than April 1, 2022.

E. Completion of Discovery, Filing of Joint Estimate of Trial Length and Status Report

The parties must complete discovery and file a joint estimate of trial length and joint status report concerning the progress of settlement negotiations no later than July 1, 2022.

F. Summary Judgment Motions

A party must file a motion for summary judgment no later than September 1, 2022.

The deadline imposed by the local civil rules for filing a motion for summary judgment does not apply in this case because the court by this order has established a different deadline. Counsel should review carefully N.D. Tex. Civ. R. 56.2(b), which limits to *one* the number of summary judgment motions that a party may file “[u]nless otherwise directed by the presiding judge, or permitted by law.”

G. Motions Not Otherwise Covered

A party must file a motion not otherwise covered by this order no later than September 1, 2022.

This deadline does not apply to motions in limine or to objections filed pursuant to Rule 26(a)(3), which must be filed no later than the deadlines that will be established by the trial setting order that the court will issue later.

III. TRIAL SETTING ORDER

The court will set the case for trial by separate order. The order will establish trial-type deadlines. It will also contain modifications to the requirements of the local civil rules regarding

such matters as submitting the joint pretrial order, and filing witness lists, exhibit lists, and deposition excerpt designations.

IV. TRIAL LIMITS

Section VII of the court's Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan permits the presiding judge to "limit the length of trial, the number of witnesses each party may present for its case, the number of exhibits each party may have admitted into evidence, and the amount of time each party may have to examine witnesses." Rule 16(c)(2)(O) permits the court to take appropriate action to "establis[h] a reasonable limit on the time allowed to present evidence[.]" Before the trial of this case begins, the court will impose time limits on the presentation of evidence, and may set other limits permitted by the Plan. In conducting discovery and other pretrial proceedings in this case, counsel should account for the fact that such limitations will be imposed.

V. RULE 26(a) DISCLOSURES AND DISCOVERY MATERIALS NOT TO BE FILED

Counsel are reminded that, pursuant to Rule 5(d)(1), disclosures under Rule 26(a)(1) or (2), and the following discovery requests and responses—depositions, interrogatories, requests for documents or tangible things or to permit entry onto land, and requests for admission—must not be filed until they are used in the proceeding or the court orders filing.

VI. AVAILABLE HELP DESKS

Case information can be obtained from the clerk of court by contacting the ECF Help Desk at (214) 753-2633.

An attorney, attorney's staff member, or party proceeding *pro se* can also obtain answers to frequently asked questions, or submit case-specific questions to chambers staff, using Judge Fitzwater's Chambers Online Help Desk, found at the following Internet address: http://cf.txnd.uscourts.gov/www2/forms/saf_email.cfm.

SO ORDERED.

November 1, 2021.



SIDNEY A. FITZWATER
SENIOR JUDGE